1   **1.** (currently amended) A method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database

2   management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database

3   management system, the method comprising the steps of:

4   making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries

5   and including a field whose value is a representation of a set, the representation specifying

6   individual members of the set that is capable of having a plurality of members; and

7   deriving the individual members of the setspecified in the representation of the set from

8   values contained in entries belonging to the plurality thereof.

1   **2.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2   deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1   **3.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the

3   setspecified in the representation.

1   **4.** (original) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:

2   The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each

3   member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are

4   separated by a separator character.

1   **5.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of

3   members in the set.

1   **6.** (original) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2   the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an

3   element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular

4   member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the

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5   absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding

6   element.

1   7. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the

3   set are derived are time values.

1   8. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of

3   the set are derived are location values.

1   **9. (cancelled)**

1   **10. (cancelled)**

1   **11. (cancelled)**

1   **12. (cancelled)**

1   **13. (cancelled)**

1   **14. (cancelled)**

1   **15. (cancelled)**

1   **16. (cancelled)**

1   **17. (cancelled)**

1   **18. (cancelled)**

1   **19. (cancelled)**

1   **20. (cancelled)**

1   **21. (cancelled)**

1   **22. (cancelled)**

1   **23. (cancelled)**

1   **24. (cancelled)**

1   **25.** (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2   the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs a

3   method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an

4   aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the method

5   comprising the steps of:

6   making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries

7   and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that is capable of having a

8   plurality of members. the representation specifying individual members of the set; and

9   deriving the individual members of the setspecified in the representation of the set from

10   values contained in entries belonging to the plurality thereof.

1   **26.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   the method further comprises the step of

3   deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1   **27.** (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in

2   that:

3   the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the

4   setspecified in the representation.

1   **28.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that:

2   The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each

3   member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are

4   separated by a separator character.

1   **29.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of

3   members in the set.

1   **30.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in that:

2   the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an

3   element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular

4   member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the

5   absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding

6   element.

1   **31.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the

3   set are derived are time values.

1   **32.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the

3   set are derived are location values.

33. **(cancelled)**

5   **34.** **(cancelled)**

35. **(cancelled)**

36. **(cancelled)**

37. **(cancelled)**

38. **(cancelled)**

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39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)

42. (cancelled)

5   **43. (cancelled)**

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (cancelled)

47. (cancelled)

48. (cancelled)